

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SNM-05 SSO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 L-03 H-01 OES-07
JUSE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W
-----116455 221450Z /40

O 221427Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6259
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GENEVA 02742

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: LEAK OF NARCOTICS INFORMATION AND CBS TELEVISION
PROGRAM

REF: (A) BOGOTA 1629, (B) BOGOTA 1630

WHITE HOUSE FOR BOURNE
DEA FOR BENSINGER
FROM FALCO

1. REF BOGOTA 1630. I CONCUR WITH BOTH CONTENT AND
TIMING OF AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDED SCENARIO, PARTICULARLY
IN LIGHT OF HIS BELIEF THAT US INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING
THE MINISTER WAS FAULTY.

2. REF BOGOTA 1629. I BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR MUST
GRANT INTERVIEW, GIVEN HIGH LEVEL OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL,
MEDIA, AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN COCAINE, ILLICIT TRAFFIC,
AND RELATED CORRUPTION. (DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY
CRITICIZED IN RECENT MONTHS FOR APPARENT APATHY OR
INDIFFERENCE IN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES AND SHOULD NOT
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EXACERBATE THIS CRITICISM BY REFUSING REQUESTED
INTERVIEW.)

3. AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSED RESPONSE ON QUESTION OF
CORRUPTION IS EXCELLENT. HOWEVER, PRESENT CND SESSION
CONFIRMS THAT COCAINE TRAFFIC FROM SOUTH AMERICA IS
INCREASING TO WESTERN EUROPE (FREQUENTLY VIA SPAIN) SO

THAT THE US IS NO LONGER THE EXCLUSIVE MARKET FOR COCAINE. MANY EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES AT CND HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RISING COCAINE ABUSE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. YOUR PHRASE "SO THAT IT DOES NOT BECOME A DRUG OF MASS CONSUMPTION" MAY GIVE RISE TO SKEPTICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING CURRENT EXTENT OF COCAINE USAGE WITHIN US, WHICH SOME PEOPLE COULD INTERPRET AS DEMONSTRATING THAT COCAINE IS ALREADY A DRUG OF MASS CONSUMPTION. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT HIGH PRICES CURTAIL THE AMOUNT AND FREQUENCY OF COCAINE USE, WHICH, AT PRESENT, REMAINS AN OCCASIONAL OR EXPERIMENTAL PRACTICE FOR THOSE AMERICANS WHO HAVE ACCESS TO COCAINE.

4. COMMITMENT OF PRESENT GOC HAS BEEN UNDERSCORED BY PRESENCE AT CND OF TWO TOP GOC OFFICIALS, MINISTER OF JUSTICE GOMEZ AND ATTORNEY GENERAL SERRANO.

5. I DID NOT RPT DID NOT TAKE LIST OF NAMES TO MY JUNE MEETING IN BOGOTA WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ. ANY SUCH LIST WAS HANDLED BY BOURNE AND BENSINGER IN THEIR SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH LOPEZ. MOSES PRESSED ME HARD ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE EXISTENCE AND CONTENT OF A "LIST" AND I DEMURRED, CLAIMING A LACK OF PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE, SINCE BOURNE AND I DID NOT DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS IN OUR MEETING WITH LOPEZ. LOPEZ DOCUMENT WHICH CITES FALCO AND BOURNE AS BRINGING LOPEZ THE NAMES OF OFFICIALS
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ALLEGED TO BE INVOLVED IS INCORRECT RPT INCORRECT IN THAT REGARD.

6. FOR AMBASSADOR ASENCIO: GOOD LUCK ON FEB 24TH.
VANDEN HEUVEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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